

**CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**U. S. Biological Survey
Congratulates Boys
on "Good Job."**

CCC boys, developing the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge in Charlton, Ware and Clinch counties in Georgia, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielsen, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the CCC.

The Okefenokee camp is joining other camps throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invites the public to visit the camp during an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this Georgia wildlife refuge. Here the CCC boys, under the direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the refuge as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges more attractive to wildlife and easier to administer.

"CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielsen, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public by becoming acquainted with them and their work can see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing these boys for good citizenship as well as learn of their contributions to the wildlife program."

The Okefenokee Refuge in southern Georgia, reaching from ten miles below Waycross to within four miles of the Florida line, has no counterpart anywhere in the world. Its wilderness conditions make it naturally so attractive to wildlife that little change will be made here. No highways will be built within the boundaries of the refuge, as they might

impair the isolated condition of Okefenokee and constitute a serious fire hazard.

Ninety species of birds winter at the refuge and the wood duck is a year round inhabitant. Ringneck, pintail and black ducks are common. Other interesting wildlife such as otters, bald eagles, ospreys, limpkins and sandhill cranes frequent the area. It is also probable that the rare ivory-billed woodpecker still exists in the swamp. A small number of these birds were observed there by scientists a few years ago.

The Mississippi alligator, rapidly disappearing from the haunts of man, and black bear, as well as the gamey black bass and other interesting fish, thrive in this section.

Although the natural supply of food for migratory and resident waterfowl here will be augmented, the isolated and strategic position of the great Okefenokee swamp will be protected to encourage increased occupancy.

Okefenokee Refuge administration has been greatly improved by the CCC boys. They have been at work there since May 25, 1937--less than a year. Yet they have completed six vehicle bridges, a combination building and a garage along with ten miscellaneous structures. So far four miles of necessary truck trail and an equal amount of telephone line are finished while topographic surveys have been started. A total of 2,336 man-days alone were devoted here to the preparation and hauling of materials.

The work at this camp has just been started. Okefenokee comprises 296,000 acres (more than 462 square miles) and its vast area, important location and unusual features make efficient administrative arrangements

imperative.

"Constructive plans," says Dr. Gabrielson, "will be followed. Natural conditions will be carefully preserved. At Okefenokee the GCO boys are working, not to restore, but to insure preservation. This is an unique area not yet devastated by man."